

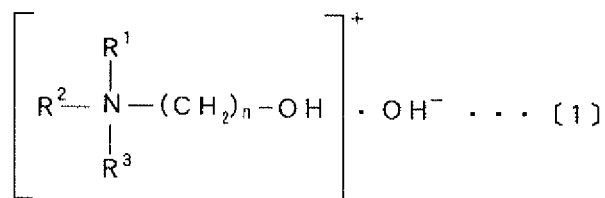
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claim 5 and add new claims 15 and 16 as follows.

1. – 4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in an operating steam generating unit, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



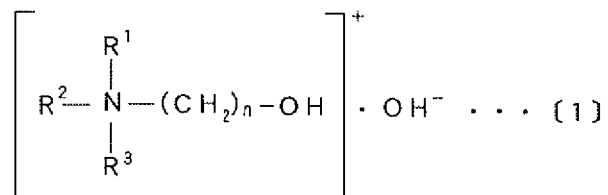
wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10, and

adding the quaternary ammonium compound in the range of 0.4 - 4 mg/L to feed water which contacts the inside of the operating steam generating unit such that a pH value of the feed water is controlled to 8.5 - 9.5, thereby preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

6. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in an atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



in which R¹, R² and R³ are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10, and

adding only the quaternary ammonium compound to fluid containing water which contacts the inside of the atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process such that a pH value thereof at the top line of the atmospheric distillation column is 5.5-6.5, thereby preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

9. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, comprising:

preparing (β-hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide; and

adding only the (β-hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide to the desalted crude oil in between a crude oil desalter and a main distillation column in the crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, , thereby preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

12. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled to 0.1 - 5 times by molar equivalent the salts content in the desalted crude oil.

13. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the chloride ion concentration or pH of the condensed water in the main distillation unit is measured, and the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled based on the measurement results.

14. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled such that the chloride ion concentration (sodium chloride conversion) of the overhead receiver water is 0-30 mg/L or the pH of the overhead receiver water is 5.5 - 7.0.

15. (New) The method for preventing corrosion of metal in an operating steam generating unit according to Claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide.

16. (New) The method for preventing corrosion of metal in an atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process according to Claim 8, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide.